

Message Text

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TAGS: TGEN, EGEN, PGOV, MPOL, PINR, UR

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON USSR SCIENCE EXPENDITURES

1. BRITISH SCIENCE COUNSELOR HAS INFORMED US THAT DURING CONVERSATION OCTOBER 17 WITH R.S. PEASE, DIRECTOR OF CULHAM LABORATORY OF BRITISH ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY, V.A. KIRILLIN STATED THAT SOVIET 1975 BUDGET FOR ALL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS 24 BILLION RUBLES, EXCLUDING CAPITAL EXPENDITURES. KIRILLIN ADDED THAT PLAN PROVIDES FOR ANNUAL EIGHT PERCENT INCREASE THROUGH NEXT FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. BRITISH NOTE THAT KIRILLIN'S AIDES APPEARED ASTONISHED WHEN KIRILLIN MENTIONED THIS FIGURE TO PEASE. (THIS REMARK BY KIRILLIN AND THE BRITISH SOURCE OF THE REPORT SHOULD BE STRICTLY PROTECTED.)

2. COMMENT: WE (AND BRITISH) NOTE THAT MINFINANCE GARBUZOV REPORTED TO SUPREME SOVIET LAST DECEMBER THAT TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FROM BUDGET AND FUNDS OF ENTERPRISES AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE 17.5 BILLION RUBLES. THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN GARBUZOV'S BUDGET FIGURE AND KIRILLIN'S (6.5 BILLION RUBLES) WOULD SEEM TO REPRESENT THE SOVIET MILITARY R&D BUDGET. IF THIS PRESUMPTION IS
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CORRECT, SOVIET MILITARY R&D EXPENDITURES IS 27 PERCENT OF

TOTAL SOVIET R&D BUDGET, WHICH IS VERY CLOSE TO PREVIOUS WESTERN ESTIMATES OF 30 PERCENT. FURTHERMORE, OUR ESTIMATE WOULD BE THAT 6.5 BILLION RUBLES IS ROUGHLY COMPARABLE IN R&D PURCHASING POWER TO FY 75 US MILITARY R&D BUDGET OF 7.6 BILLION DOLLARS. WHILE A RUBLE BUYS CONSIDERABLY MORE STAFF TIME IN USSR THAN DOLLAR BUYS IN US, THIS ADVANTAGE IS OFFSET BY LESSER PRODUCTIVITY OF SOVIET PERSONNEL, MUCH WEAKER LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO SOVIET RESERCH ESTABLISHMENTS, WEAKER LATERAL COMMUNICATION AMONG SOVIET RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER COMPARATIVE INEFFICIENCIES.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS WASHINGTON AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO COMPARATIVE VALUE OF MILITARY R&D EXPENDITURES IN US AND USSR.

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